



CHECKLIST FOR LEAVING CARE

Here are steps you should take to make sure you and your child are set up for success before you leave foster care. This checklist can help you get started. Reading this list can feel overwhelming.

But remember, you only need to take one step at a time. The sooner you get started the better. And you should ask for as much help as you need!

MY AGENCY HAS...

- My agency has helped me do a credit check.
- My agency has helped me clear up any credit problems I have.
- My agency has made sure that both my child and I are enrolled in Transitional Medicaid.



MY CASEWORKER HAS...

- My caseworker or lawyer has helped me obtain all the papers I need to prove my immigration status if I am not a citizen.
- My caseworker has helped me explore all housing options.
- My caseworker has helped me apply for public assistance, food stamps and/or social security for me and my child if I am eligible.

I HAVE...

- I have obtained a copy of my and my child's social security card.
- I have obtained a copy of my and my child's birth certificate
- I have obtained a New York State ID card.
- I have obtained a passport.
- I have obtained a Driving Permit and I am signed up for Driver's Ed. (Note: You may not think you need to know how to drive if you don't have a car, but knowing how to drive can be a big help in the future and ACS will pay for Driver's Ed!)
- I have obtained my Driver's License
- I have a medical home for myself and my child.
- I have opened a bank account.
- I have started to save money in my bank account.
- I have at least one month's rent saved in my bank account.
- I have secured housing.
- Once I have housing, I have taken time to learn about the resources in my new neighborhood, like laundry, grocery stores, food pantries, parks and playgrounds, libraries, and community centers. To locate more resources in your neighborhood you can also use the ACS website: <https://acsconnectme.nyc.gov/homepage.do>
- I have a plan for school, job-training, employment or parenting full time after I leave foster care.
- I have a plan for my child's schooling and/or child care after I leave foster care.
- If I have an indicated case for a past child protective investigation, I have worked with my lawyer to see if I can have my case sealed and amended or expunged so that it does not impact my job search now or in the future.
- I have a support team in place who I can turn to for help.
- I have someone I trust who is able to babysit or care for my child when I need a break.

